



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program *Home Energy Health and Safety Alert*

Fall, 2010

About LIHEAP:

- Federally-funded block grant program for aid with:
 - ◆ home heating bills
 - ◆ home cooling bills
 - ◆ emergency assistance to avoid shut-offs
 - ◆ home weatherization
 - ◆ home energy equipment repair/replacement
- Assistance available to low-income households susceptible to health and safety effects of insufficiently heated or cooled homes, especially "vulnerable" households with at least one person who is either elderly (60 years or older), disabled, or a young child (five years or younger)
- Grantees include the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Indian Tribes, and U.S. territories
- **To apply for assistance**, call the National Energy Assistance Referral Hotline at **1-866-674-6327**

Weatherize Your Home in Time for Winter:

In addition to weatherization assistance from LIHEAP, there are numerous rebates, bill credits, and tax incentives available to help you weatherize your home, including:

- 30% federal tax credit, up to \$1,500, to purchase and install energy efficient technologies; and
- Federally insured energy efficient mortgages.

For details and a complete list of federal, state, and local energy efficiency incentive programs, visit www.dsireusa.org.

Learn How to Become an Energy Saver:

With winter fast approaching, now is the perfect time to take control of your home's energy usage. Log on to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's Home Energy Saver tool to quickly calculate customized potential energy savings, learn simple energy-saving actions, and compare energy-conserving upgrades that can make your home more efficient and comfortable. Visit <http://hes.lbl.gov/consumer> to get started.

Fireplace safety:

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, 36% of residential fires are caused by fireplaces or other heating fires. Keep your family safe this season by following these practical tips:

- **Keep Fireplaces and Wood Stoves Clean**
 - Have your chimney cleaned and inspected annually to prevent dangerous buildup;
 - Keep the hearth area free of flammable decorations and items; and
 - Use a metal mesh screen on fireplaces, and keep glass fireplace doors open while the fire is burning.
- **Fuel Safety**
 - Never use flammable liquids to start a fire;
 - Build small fires that burn completely and produce less smoke;
 - Never leave a fire unattended;
 - Soak ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home; and
 - Never burn cardboard, trash, or debris in a fireplace or wood stove.
- **Protect Your Home**
 - Cover your chimney with a mesh screen spark arrester;
 - Install smoke alarms and test them regularly;
 - Ensure all equipment is properly vented; and
 - Stack firewood at least 30 feet from your home.

For more information, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website at: <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov>

Recent Studies:

The Energy Information Administration has released its October 2010 *Short Term Energy Outlook*, predicting a modest increase in home heating costs this winter. The average household will likely spend about \$24 more this year to heat their home compared to last year. For more information, visit:

<http://www.eia.gov/emeu/steo/pub/contents.html>